SCHOOL BOARD VOTES AGAINST MONUMENT

Withdraws Permission for Erection of Columbus Statue on Easton School Grounds

The Easton school board of a vote of six to one withdrew its permission granted to the Columbus monument committee on April 22, last, to erect a monument of Christopher Columbus on the grounds of the Easton Senior High school at Twelfth and Northampton streets.

Messrs. Carpenter, Clause, Kressler, Diefenderfer, Powell and Dr. Sandt, president, and Mrs. Plank voted in favor of the resolution rescinding the board's previous action. Mr. Gerstell voted against it.

The resolution follows:

"When the Columbus monument committee on April 22 petitioned the Easton school board for permission to place a monument of Christopher Columbus on the grounds of the Easton High school, the board of education was pleased with the patriotic spirit of those who proposed to confer the gift and pleased also with the prospect of adding an attractive object of art on the high school grounds. The gift was accepted in good faith with genuine appreciation.

"Since that time, however, a sharp and widespread division of sentiment has arisen in our community with regard to placing the Columbus monument or any other monument on the school grounds. This division of sentiment placed the board of public education in an embarrassing position, wishing as they do, to grant the request of the patriotic citizens who proposed the gift and realizing at the same time their obligation in a matter of this kind to respect community sentiment.

"It is with deep regret, therefore, that the board of education, withdraws the permission granted to the monument committee on April 22, and in reluctantly taking this necessary action, the board of education assured the monument committee of its sympathy with their project and their sincere wishes for its ultimate success."